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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Functions of the "Large" and "Small" Cadre Commissions of an SED Bezirk Directorate

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1. In the second half of 1954, following the Fourth SED Party Congress, and in addition to the formation of the Bureaus of the SED Bezirk, Kreis and local directorates, so-called Large and Small Cadre Commissions were organized. These Commissions function as follows in an SED Bezirk Directorate.
2. Both Commissions consist exclusively of full-time employees of the SED Bezirk Directorate. They are summoned whenever the occasion demands, that is, they have no regular schedule of meetings.
3. The Second Secretary and the Head of the Leading Organs Department of the Bezirk Directorate are permanent members of the Large Cadre Commission and must attend all meetings. Four other members participate according to the type of cadre matter to be discussed.
4. The following is an example of the practical operation of a Large Cadre Commission in the SED Bezirk Directorate Neubrandenburg. The director of the Org-Instructor Department of the Bezirk Council has been delegated to attend the Deutsche Verwaltungsakademie. The Large Cadre Commission is to decide who will replace this functionary. The Cadre Department of the Bezirk Council is required to suggest a replacement and to submit the personnel file on the suggested candidate. In this instance the head of the State Organs Department of the Bezirk Directorate would be a member of the Large Cadre Commission. In the case of approval for a VdGB functionary, as another example, the director of the Agriculture Department of the SED Bezirk Directorate would be a member of the Commission. The Large Cadre Commission would then approve or reject the proposed candidate.

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5. The Small Cadre Commission functions in those instances in which direct SED Bezirk Directorate approval of a prospective appointment is not needed. Personnel changes in the Bezirk Council are to be discussed with the Small Cadre Commission but do not need its specific approval. For example, if the position of Department Head for Agriculture in a Kreis Council is to be filled - this position coming under the nomenclature of the Bezirk Council - the Cadre Department of the Bezirk Council suggests a candidate to the State Organs Department of the SED Bezirk Directorate. In this instance the Small Cadre Commission would consist of the head of the State Organs Department of the SED Bezirk Directorate, the Cadre Instructor of the same Department, and the Department Head of an instructor of the Agriculture Department of the SED Bezirk Directorate. These three functionaries discuss the case with the member of the Cadre Department of the Bezirk Council. In so doing they constitute a Small Cadre Commission.
6. Chairmen of Kreis Councils are not approved by the Large Cadre Commission but must have the direct approval of the Bureau of the SED Bezirk Directorate.
7. The most important cadre reserve for the SED Party apparatus is provided by the various levels of the East German government. In late 1954, during discussions of cadre functionaries, it was repeatedly stated that the structure of the governmental organs had been greatly weakened by the continual siphoning off of the best workers by the SED. For this reason it was suggested that full-time Party functionaries be drawn from other sources than from the government. In general, the number of instances in which full-time Party functionaries are assigned to governmental positions is much smaller than the reverse. In fact, in SED functionaries' circles, it is considered a demotion if a functionary is transferred from full-time Party work to a full-time government function.

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